

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

APRIL 2014

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Are on Sundays at 10.30 at Cheltenham Meeting House. There is usually a shared lunch on each fifth Sunday. Children are always welcome in our Sunday meetings for worship. If during the hour parents feel it is appropriate they can go with them to the children's room, where they will be joined by one of the children's meeting volunteers.

DIARY (All of these meetings are at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)

March			
Wednesday	26	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Sunday	30	12.00 noon	Fifth Sunday Talk – Quaker Tapestry by Pat Dannahy followed by shared lunch
April			
Thursday	3	7.00pm	Pastoral Friends Social Evening see below
Sunday	6	12.00noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Monday	7	7.30pm	Meeting of Liaison Group
Tuesday	8	2.00pm	Meeting of Elders
Sunday	13	1.00pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Painswick QMH
Sunday	20	12 noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Thursday	24	7.30pm	Meeting of Pastoral Friends
Wednesday	30	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's

Pastoral Friends Social Evening will be held on Thursday 3 April starting at 7.00pm. All in Meeting are invited along to an evening gathering to share music, poetry, food and fellowship. If you enjoy singing, there's an opportunity to join in songs from the Quaker Songbook. If you would like to contribute a poem or short story, please sign the list or email with details of your choice. We intend to offer refreshments during the evening. If you can **offer help with this**, please let a PF know. We hope you can join us.

Pastoral Friends

Meeting for Learning in April will be on Easter Sunday, 20 April. Ian Brighton will facilitate an exploration of *Quakers, Christian Symbolism and Practice*.

APRIL COLLECTION is for the Leavers. This is the Quaker Performing Arts Project, a charity founded in 1978. It is the only Quaker arts organisation in Britain, running 35-40 creative arts projects a year, many of them residential, all over the country, and occasionally abroad. Their high quality projects are divided into three types, Music Making, Creative Arts and Theatre & Performance. They work with Quaker Meetings, schools, youth groups and other Quaker and non-Quaker organisations.

They are committed to constantly examining all aspects of their work to keep improving the quality of what they deliver and to ensure that they are living examples of Quaker testimonies. Judi Dench, Sheila Hancock, John Whitley and Ben Kingsley are patrons.

Donations can be made via their website at www.leavers.org or sent direct to 1 The Lodge, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ. Friends who are taxpayers are encouraged to send donations directly to the charity, using Gift Aid or a charity voucher (CAF, Charities Trust, etc)

Items for inclusion in the next newsletter should be sent to the editorial email address or by post to the editor
Janet Weyers by
Monday 14 April at the latest

Web address: http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/current_cq.pdf

NEXT FIFTH SUNDAY TALK

The next talk will be on 29 June, when Margaret Sheldrick's son and daughter in law, Andrew and Sally Feyi-Waboso, will be talking about their charity Sight Malawi.

MAY MEETING FOR LEARNING

Hilary Browne, the mother of Sally Davies of our Meeting, will be talking to us about her visit to Gaza in a talk entitled 'Gaza – a liveable place?'. She was an Ecumenical Accompanier in the West Bank in 2008/9.

SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE IN 2014:

A residential weekend has been arranged for our Meeting, to take place at Charney Manor 20-22 June 2014. The title will be '*What is my Ministry: What is Ours?*'.

The weekend will be facilitated by Zelig Gross. Zelig has written: *My partner Philip and I worship at a small meeting in Penarth, South Wales, just a short walk from where we have lived for the past eight years. I have been a Friend for 28 years, and I count that from my very first meeting for worship at Redland Meeting in Bristol, when I knew I had found my spiritual home. In that time I have served my meetings and the wider Religious Society in numerous interesting and challenging ways, though none more surprising than my current occupation of writing a book (my first full length publication) on eldership and oversight. The Quaker service I most enjoy is working with Friends and meetings in their learning and development as Friends, which happens through my teaching for Woodbrooke and in various ways with Quaker Life. I am very much looking forward to working with Cheltenham Friends in this spirit at Charney Manor.*

During the weekend we hope to:

- Get to know one another in the Spirit and strengthen our sense of community
- Deepen our awareness of spiritual nurture in our worship, including vocal ministry
- Explore our understanding of ministry as service and how we share our gifts
- Think about communications in our meeting: how can we make being in touch

in many different ways work for us as a meeting?

- Discover ways of supporting one another on our spiritual journeys

The cost will be £190 for a single room and £365 for a twin room. Bursary help will be available. £50 deposit for each person will be required **by 27 April** and the final payment should be made by **25 May**. Payments can be made by cheque or bank transfer, or cash in special circumstances. Look out for the sign up notice on the notice board; if you have any queries, please ask one of the Elders.

YEARLY MEETING GATHERING 2-9 AUGUST 2014

This year our YMG will be held at Bath University campus. This is perched on top of a hill overlooking the beautiful Somerset countryside, just outside Bath. The site is flat and accessible and no more than a couple of hundred yards from one end to the other. As always the accommodation offered is from a site to pitch your own tent, to ensuite rooms with full board.

A sign up notice is on the board for those interested in going on a **one day trip** or contact our clerk Ian Brighton.

BYMG organisers are hoping to have **volunteers** who will help them both before the Gathering starts, to prepare welcome packs, and during, for many posts such as doorkeeping and showing Friends to their accommodation on arrival. If you think you can help, please contact Judy Roles.

Up to date news of the gathering and the timetable can be found on <http://groupspaces.com/quakerymg>

QUAKER BOOK CLUB

This group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at Margaret Cooper's at 2.30pm. We consider books that will encourage us on our spiritual journey. Here is careful thought, laughter, tea and talk.

If you require any further information please contact David Clayton or Margaret Cooper.

WW1 INFORMATION REQUIRED

Gloucester City Museums are marking the anniversary of WW1 and would very much like to hear from anyone who could tell them about Quaker individuals who had some kind of role or experience in Gloucester during the war years. Real stories about real people would be invaluable in making the exhibition interesting. If you have any information that might help, please email the curator of the City Museum in Gloucester, David Rice on David.rice@gloucester.gov.uk or get in touch with Rachel Pardoe of Forest of Dean Meeting.

NOTES FROM MARCH LOCAL MEETING

We agreed to ask our Treasurer to transfer our deposit account from Santander bank to Triodus bank immediately, with the possibility of transferring our current account at a later date.

NOTES FROM MARCH AREA MEETING

A full agenda included a report from Sue Barrance on the recent *Quakers in Criminal Justice* conference, also attended by Judy Roles and Dorothy Carson from our Meeting; a report on the talk in the morning by Jamie Wrench on *Crime, Community and Justice*, and a report from Richard Lacock on the Gloucestershire Standard Advisory Council on Religious Education (SACRE) on which he is our representative. It is hoped there will be room in a future newsletter for more detail about these interesting reports and the talk. This can be found now in the appendices to the Area Meeting Minutes to be found in News of Friends sent on Monday 11 March.

Friends also took part in a participative exercise which enabled Friends at Area Meeting to give consideration as to how the worshipping life of our Meetings might be deepened:

The challenge we are facing is how to maintain vibrancy in our Meetings. The Kindlers suggest that we think about our ministry at individual, Meeting and wider levels. A sample exercise taken from one of the Kindler's worship workshops was facilitated by Judy Roles and John Miles. It covered three aspects: worship, community and witness.

Friends took time in shifting pairs to explore various issues:

how easy is it to let go?

what does it mean to you to be open?

what is your experience of waiting in the Light?

can you recognise and accept what is being revealed by the Light?

Finally in groups of four Friends considered briefly whether this fresh awareness brings new life.

ECUMENICAL PRAYER GROUP will start a new cycle of meetings from Tuesday 8th of April 2014 at the home of Jacek Weyers. The meetings will be based on Gerard Hughes' book:- *God of Surprises* which Gerald Priestland, broadcaster and Quaker, described as "one of the great books of spiritual guidance". We will share our spiritual insights from the book in a prayerful manner.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month starting on the 8 April 2014 at 10.00 am to 11.30 for about 12 months. For more information Tel: Jacek Weyers. New Members very welcome.

Jacek Weyers

HOW TO DO IT? – a reminder

For those with computers a good way of letting other Friends know your news is by putting it on Cheltenham NEWS OF FRIENDS. Your news is then sent by email to all other Friends in our Local Meeting who have put their names on the list. The address to send your information to is news_of_friends@cheltenhamquaker.org.uk. It is not necessary to put in a preamble as Philip Paull, who sends out Cheltenham NEWS OF FRIENDS, will know what it is for if you send it to that address.

If you haven't a computer just give it to Philip.

If you want to let the whole of AM have your news, send it to Eliot Walker (e-mail address in the Yellow Book), explaining what it is for.

This is not the same as the Cheltenham newsletter. Items for this should be sent to the address at the bottom of page 1 or given to the editor. If you have updates for the newsletter or find something you want to have corrected please also send these to the editor.

PASTORAL FRIENDS

If you would find it helpful to have a list of which Pastoral Friends are responsible for particular Friends, and/or you would like the latest edition of the Cheltenham Quaker Meeting Contact List, please contact Evelyn Shaw by phone or by email.

QUAKER SERVICE MEMORIAL TRUST EXHIBITION

The QSMT has been involved in the setting up of the stone memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, commemorating service in the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service during and after WW1. They have put together an exhibition, which is to visit our area in May/June this year, showing Friends' relief work – WW1 is just one episode of nearly two centuries of relief work under Friends auspices, starting with the Irish famines in the 1840s.

What is the exhibition?

12 portable self-supporting panels telling the story of the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service in both wars, along with Quaker peace activities up to the present day.

Where and when?

Gloucester Cathedral South Transept 3 -15 May

Nailsworth Meeting House: 17 - 25 May as part of Nailsworth Festival

Lydney High Street: 30 - 31 May

Newnham George Café: 2 - 5 June

Cheltenham General Hospital, Sandford Road: 7 - 13 June

Dursley St Marks' Church: 14 – 20 June

Cirencester Meeting House: 21 – 28 June (as the first in a series of events in Cirencester around WW1)

Other activities planned to link with the exhibition

Public Meeting at Gloucester Cathedral Thursday 15 May at 7.30. Talk entitled *Peace Now: Time for Action* given by Diana Francis, next year's Swarthmore Lecturer, trainer and author in conflict transformation.

Silent video on continuous loop (produced by Fiona Meadley) showing archive footage from WW1 and the work of the FAU during WW2

Cirencester Meeting WW1 Poetry event: Saturday 21 June 2 - 5pm CMH

Evening talk: at Cirencester MH Wednesday 25 June 7.30pm by Robert Heaven (a member of Cirencester Meeting and a JP) on *Quakers in Gloucestershire: trials and tribulations* This will include an enactment of a WW1 trial of a conscientious objector.

Archive material: we are hoping to make available on our Glos Quakers website archive material about Gloucestershire connections to the FAU and conscientious objectors. Hopefully we may also be able to display some memorabilia from the FAU in a portable display cabinet next to the exhibition.

Help requested from local meetings:

The Area Meeting Peace Group, who are mounting the exhibition, have the following requests:

We need your help with publicity

There are:

Small flyers about the exhibition with small separate sheet inside about the public meeting

A4 posters about the exhibition, A4 posters about the public meeting

A5 posters about the exhibition, A5 posters about the public meeting

We need your help with stewarding at Gloucester Cathedral 3 - 15 May

The exhibition will be in the south transept of the cathedral for nearly 2 weeks from Saturday 3 May to Thursday 15 May (stewarding from 10 am to 4 pm).

We do not need stewards all the time and Gloucester Friends will be taking the lead, but they will need lots of additional help as it would be good to have people stewarding at all busy times such as Saturdays and Sunday afternoons.

Offers of help to Dorothy Carson who will pass them on to the Peace Group. Some help will be needed for the Cheltenham Hospital venue.